

Promoting the Readiness of Minors in Supplemental Security Income (PROMISE)

Thank you for your interest in the [PROMISE Program](#). PROMISE is a joint initiative of the U.S. Department of Education (ED), the U.S. Social Security Administration, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Labor to fund model demonstration projects in States to promote positive short-term and long-term outcomes for children who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and their families.

In order to run a rigorous competition and obligate the funds available for this program to grantees before September 30, 2013, ED will waive rulemaking for this new program, pursuant to its authority in section 437(d)(1) of the General Education Provisions Act. We want your input on how the major elements of this program will be implemented; so we are posting the draft priority, including proposed requirements, definitions, and selection criteria for the anticipated PROMISE competition on our [PROMISE](#) Web site. We encourage all interested parties to share their comments with us using the input section provided in the Web-based document (www.ed.gov/promise). This document will be posted for public input until 5:00 PM EDT on March 17, 2013, at which time the input section will be closed. We will review and consider the public input as we develop the final priority that will be published in a Notice Inviting Applications in the Federal Register later this spring.

The PROMISE priority requires that State applicants focus on improving the provision and coordination of services and supports for child SSI recipients and their families in order to achieve improved outcomes, such as completing postsecondary education and job training to obtain competitive employment that may result in long-term reductions in the child recipient's reliance on SSI. The Department believes that building effective partnerships will increase the likelihood of success of these projects by improving the coordination of services and integrating multiple funding sources and other resources, as well as contributing to States' ability to effectively serve these individuals. We also believe that focusing not only on the needs of the youth, but also on the needs of the families, including the parents, may help to further the long-term goal of independence and self-sufficiency for these child and family SSI beneficiaries.

For this reason, each PROMISE project must have several core features:

- (1) strong and effective partnerships with agencies responsible for programs that play a key role in providing services to the target population;
- (2) a plan to provide a set of coordinated services, supports, and practices targeted to the needs of child SSI recipients and their families; and
- (3) the capacity to achieve results, including the capacity to implement the required project design and collect the data needed to test and evaluate the results of the project.

We are posting this document on a moderated site, which means that all posts will be reviewed before they are posted. We intend to post all responsive submissions on a timely basis. We reserve the right not to post comments that are unrelated to this request, are inconsistent with ED's Web site policies,

are advertisements or endorsements, or are otherwise inappropriate. Please do not include links to advertisements or endorsements, as we will delete them before we post your comments. Additionally, to protect your privacy and the privacy of others, please do not include personally identifiable information such as names, Social Security numbers, addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses in the body of your comments. For more information, please be sure to read the "[comments policy](#)."

Please understand that posts must be related to the PROMISE program priority and should be as specific as possible. Each post must be limited to 1,000 words. All opinions, ideas, suggestions, and comments are considered informal input and ED will not respond to any posts. If you include a link to additional information in your post, we urge you to ensure that the linked information is accessible to all individuals, including individuals with disabilities who require accessible formats. We look forward to receiving your ideas and suggestions. However, please be aware that the input you provide in these posts might or might not be reflected in the final notice inviting applications that will be published in the Federal Register.

Again, thank you for your interest in this opportunity to promote positive outcomes for children who receive SSI and their families. We look forward to hearing from you.

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